(b) if so, the main features of the revamping of the Planning Commission that are being considered; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be started and to what extent revamping of Planning Commission has helped the States?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No radical changes in the Planning Commission are contemplated.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Clearance of Narmada Project

255. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Narmada Project has not yet been cleared by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the work on the Project was cleared in 1963 by the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, whether since then it has not been progressing satisfactorily; and

(e) whether the Narmada scheme has to be declared as a major Project?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (e) Following the report of the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal, the Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) Project, with the cost estimates of Rs. 4240 crores at the 1981-82 price level, was found techno-economically viable by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission and recommended for investment clearance by the Commission subject to compliance of various observations, including preparation of an acceptable rehabilitation plan and obtaining clearance from forest angle. The Environment and Forest clearace has been accorded to the project. The Planning Commission will, therefore, expeditiously process the project for investment clearance immediately after it receives the modified and updated documents including cost estimates from the State Government and the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Narmada (Sardar Sarovar) Project is a major project. The work on the dam has started in 1978 only and since then the work is progressing, by and large, satisfatorily. What was cleared by the Planning Commission in 1960 was, "Broach (Narmada) Projecct (Stage-I)" for an estimated cost of Rs. 43.09 crores to irrigate 3.89 lakh hectares.

Restructuring of Rural Development Planning

256. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is need for restructuring of rural development planning;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is need for its implementation to achieve the goal of elimination of twin problems of poverty and un-employment;

(c) the main features of the scheme for restructuring the rural development planning; and

(d) whether these new plans will be introduced in 1988-89 and to what extent the problem of poverty and unemployment will be removed during 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The strategy laid down in the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) of: accelerated agricultural growth, increased productivity of rice in eastern India, developing the potential of dry land agriculture, adoption of special measures to increase productivity and incomes of small and marginal farmers, expansion of irrigation facilities, implementation of Minimum Needs Programme, and special anti-poverty and employment programmes specifically designed to raise incomes and

productivity of the people below poverty line will be continued during the rest of the Seventh Plan period.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Economic outlook and the Seventh Plan

257. SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO:

SHRI ASHIS SEN:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across the discussion on 'Economic outlook and the Seventh Plan' organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi; and if so, deliberations of the same; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of participants expressed their views on the subject at the meeting. This is one of the many such discussions held on this and similar topics. Due note has been taken of the views expressed.

Talks with Afghan President regarding formation of Government

258. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the precise areas covered during the talks held with the President of Afghanistan's recent visit to the country for the establishment of a broad-based Government in Afghanistan following withdrawal of Soviet troops and what is the agreement arrived at in so far as India's role is concerned in the matter; and

(b) what follow up action has been taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) During President Najibullah's visit to India, we were informed, amongst other things, of the Afghan Government's policy of national reconciliation. Government supports this policy and are of the view that the Afghans should be allowed to determine their own future free from external interference.

Amnesty International Report on I.P.K.F.

259. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Amnesty International in its report on human rights violations in Sri Lanka has charged the IPKF of rape and brutality;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the basis on which the report has been given by the Amnesty International giving the instances, if any, quoted in the report; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) In its report released in July, 1988 Amnesty International has indicated that it has received some allegations against the IPKF.

(b) The report states that many of the allegations were made by the LTTE and most could not be substantiated. The report, however, lists some cases which it claims were from independent sources.

(c) Government rejects any general allegations of rape and brutality made against the IPKF. These allegations are generally fabricated and motivated. Every specific complaint received from any source about the behaviour of IPKF tro-